

New-York Daily Tribune

THURSDAY, APRIL 7, 1864.

NEWS OF THE DAY.

THE WAR.

An expedition of Union forces sent against Mount Elba and Longview, Ark., returned to Pine Bluff, on the Arkansas River, on the 31st ult. Mount Elba and Longview are 25 and 50 miles south from Pine Bluff, on the Washita River. In South-Eastern Arkansas. At Longview they destroyed the pontoon bridges, burned a train of 35 wagons loaded with camp and garrison equipments, ammunition, quartermasters' stores, &c., and captured 300 prisoners. On the 30th they engaged Gen. Docking's force of 1,200 men, from Monticello, killed him, and pursued him ten miles, with a loss on his side of over 100 killed and wounded. Our men captured a large quantity of small arms, two stands of colors, many wagons, and over 300 horses and mules. Our loss will not exceed 15 killed, wounded and missing. Several hundred contrabands were brought in.

CONGRESS.

SENATE, April 6.—Mr. Grimes presented a bill repealing the joint resolution authorizing the transfer of men from the army into the navy. Referred. The Senate proceeded to the consideration of the joint resolution amending the Constitution. Speeches were made by Messrs. Harlan, Sanborn, Hale, McDougall, and Powell. Mr. Powell proposed an amendment to an additional section providing that the President and Vice-President shall not hold their offices more than six years. It was rejected, 12 to 32. The bill passed to a third reading. The Senate then adjourned without final action.

HOUSE.—Mr. Pendleton reported a bill, providing that the Secretary of State, the Secretary of War, the Secretary of the Treasury, the Secretary of the Navy, the Secretary of the Interior, the Attorney-General, and the Postmaster-General shall be entitled to occupy seats on the floor of the House of Representatives, with the right to participate in debate upon matters relating to the business connected with their respective departments, under such rules as may be prescribed by the House. The bill further provides that the said Secretaries, the Attorney-General and Postmaster-General shall attend the sessions of the House of Representatives immediately on the opening of the sittings on Mondays and Thursdays of each week, to give information in reply to questions which may be propounded to them under the rules of the House. In order to carry out the intention of the bill, Mr. Pendleton reported an amendment to the rules. The House proceeded to the consideration of the National Banking bill. Mr. Hooper made the closing speech. The House then proceeded to vote on the various amendments, agreeing to that authorizing the issue of notes of a less denomination than five dollars, by a vote of 76 against 54, and agreed to another amendment that not more than one-sixth of the notes shall be of a less denomination than five dollars; and when specie payments are resumed, such small notes are to go out of circulation. The House concurred in the amendment that any bank or banking association, organized in pursuance of the laws of any State under the articles of association which prohibit specified changes therein, may be changed and converted into a National Banking Association, under the provisions of this act, without any change in the articles of association, and its directors, at the time of such change, may continue in office, and their successors may from time to time be elected or appointed in the manner provided by its articles of association. The vote on concurring was, Yeas, 63; Nays, 63. The House then agreed, 72 against 61, to amend the amendment that the taxes on duties imposed by Congress from time to time shall be in lieu of all other taxes on said associations. The House then voted on the amendment, that the rate of seven per centum interest, fixed in section 30, shall be deemed the lawful interest in all the States where no rate is established; but each bank shall be bound by the State law, regulating the interest in the State where it is located. This was concurred in, Yeas, 89; Nays, 43. The House then voted on the new section, that nothing in this act shall be construed to prevent the taxation by States of the capital stock of the banks organized under this act, the same as the property of other moneyed corporations, for State or municipal purposes; but no State shall impose any tax upon such associations or their capital, circulation, dividends, or business at a higher rate of taxation than shall be imposed by such upon the same amount of moneyed capital in the hands of individual citizens of such States. Agreed to, Yeas, 78; Nays, 56. All the amendments of the Committee of the Whole were concurred in, Mr. Stevens (in the face of the original bill, with the exception of restoring the uniform rate of seven per centum interest, and leaving taxation with the National Government—withdrawal from the State Government. Rejected, Yeas, 59; Nays, 78. The original bill as amended now came up. Mr. Spaulding offered a new section, which provides that each and every banking association created under this act, or any other hereafter passed, shall receive in payment of debts the circulating notes of all other banks without depreciation or discount from their nominal value. Mr. Stevens moved to lay the bill on the table. Motion carried—Yeas, 89; Nays, 44. This kills the whole bill. Adjourned.

LEGISLATURE.

SENATE, April 6.—Bills were reported against incorporating the Mechanists' Association No. 1 (agreed to); for the improvement of Third street, Brooklyn; amending the charter of the National Life and Limb Insurance Company, relative to the Institution for the Deaf and Dumb. Bills were passed amending the Brooklyn Public Park act; incorporating the Farmers' Protective Union of Kings, Queens, Suffolk, Westchester, and Rockland Counties; amending the charter of the New-York Warehouse and Security Company; incorporating the Basin Dock Company of Brooklyn; amending the charter of the Brooklyn and Rockaway Beach Park Railroad Company. Mr. Fields reported a bill authorizing the Commissioners of the Land Office to empower Wm. Flyntler to build a dock at the foot of Barclay street, and confirm the resolution of the Common Council thereto. The bill authorizing the officers of the Erie Railroad and Steamboat Company to make a certain certificate was ordered to a third reading, as was also the Croton Water Works Reservoir bill. Recess.

ASSEMBLY.—Reports were made from the Committee on Banks, a minority report in favor of the bill authorizing State banks to organize as National banks; relative to the New-York Guaranty and Indemnity Company; relative to the New-York German Savings Bank; to incorporate the Market Savings Bank, complete; to amend the charter of the Citizens' Fire Insurance Company, complete; to amend the charter of the Security Fire Insurance Company, complete; to amend the charter of the Excelsior Fire Insurance Company, complete; to incorporate the New-York Medical College for Women, complete; for an armory for the 8th Regiment National Guard, complete; to amend the charter of the Phoenix Insurance Company of Brooklyn, complete. Recess.

NEWS FROM EUROPE.

The Royal mail steamer Persia, from Liverpool March 26, via Queenstown March 27, arrived here yesterday, bringing two days later news from Europe. The Themis, one of the finest frigates of the French Navy, had sailed for Trieste, to serve as an escort for the future Emperor of Mexico, who would embark for Mexico on March 30.

A Frankfurt dispatch states that the Conference which is to attempt a settlement of the German quarrel with Denmark will speedily assemble, but we are not told whether the German Confederation will consent to send a representative.

The Emperor Alexander has issued an ukase which enables Russian ladies to contract marriages with foreigners without his previous consent, and to retain the ownership of their lands after such marriages. The naturalization of foreigners as Russian subjects is likewise to be somewhat facilitated.

Garibaldi is expected to arrive in London on

the 16th of April, and preparations are being made to give him a public reception. A gentleman who has been in close communication with Garibaldi, declares that the "only object" of the General in visiting this country is "to thank in person the generous hearts who have done him so much good in his hours of distress and sorrow."

In the French Legislative Body, M. Emile Olivier has been elected reporter on the bill on coalitions. This is the first time that the Corps Legislatif has allowed a member of the minority to occupy such a position. The fact is an indication of the irresistible progress of liberal opinion.

GENERAL NEWS.

The Board of Education last night authorized the building of two new school houses, one in the Eighteenth and one in the Sixteenth Ward. Congressman Herrick presented the Board with an appointment to the Naval Academy at New-York. A long discussion arose upon the award of the fuel contract, the lowest bidder, who was also the lowest bidder last year, having then applied for and received an advance of \$1.83 per ton on his contract price for coal. A resolution was passed inquiring into the heating capacity of the steam and water heating apparatus in the school buildings. Hitherto contracts for heating have been awarded without reference to the fact that the power of an apparatus depends upon the area of surface which it presents to the fire from which it derives the heat, and to the air to which it gives it off.

A boiler exploded yesterday in Southwark Foundry, Philadelphia, by which seven men were killed, and more than 30 wounded. It is supposed that some of the wounded are hurt past recovery. The boiler was torn in two places, one portion of which was thrown 50 feet, demolishing a pattern shop, and damaging other buildings. A second boiler adjacent to the one which exploded, and of equal size, was lifted bodily on to the roof of one of the machine shops. The boiler house was completely demolished, as was also the side of the boiler shop. The explosion will cause much delay on machinery for Government steamers, several hundred men being thrown out of work.

Mrs. Caroline M. Kirkland, the well-known authoress, died very suddenly of apoplexy, at her residence in this city yesterday. Her death was wholly unexpected, and the news thereof will be a sad surprise to tens of thousands of friends, not only those who enjoyed her personal acquaintance, but those who have known and loved her by her books alone.

Freemasons' Hall, corner of Boylston and Tremont streets, Boston, was destroyed by fire on Wednesday morning. The Winthrop House adjoining was also destroyed. The loss on the Hall is about \$100,000, and on the hotel about \$50,000. The Freemasons lost many valuable relics.

Three small buildings belonging to the Union Powder Works at New-Durham, N. H., were blown up on Tuesday afternoon. Four men were killed. Aside from the loss of life, the damage was not great.

The Rev. Dr. Brandegee, rector of G. C. Church (Episcopal), died on Wednesday forenoon, after an illness of only two days, at Utica, N. Y.

The new steamer St. John on Tuesday made the run from this city to Albany in 8 hours 44 minutes, with 350 tons of freight on board.

Counterfeit \$10 greenbacks, printed from genuine plates, but without stamps, were in circulation last evening.

Tompkins County elects nine Union Supervisors. Six Unionists and three Democrats were chosen last year.

Gold was excited all day, and closed at a large advance. The Government rate was placed at 106½ against 106¼ in the market. At noon the price in open market was 109 1/8, and during the afternoon as high as 111 1/8. The rate at 3 p. m. closing 110 1/8. Stocks on the street were steady. At the Stock Exchange, Government Bonds were strong. Mining Stocks are in demand, and the new shares in great request. Money on call is quoted at 7½ cent for new loans, with many old shares running at 6½ cent.

MARYLAND yesterday voted, by a majority unparalleled in her history, in favor of a Convention to amend her Constitution so as to crush out at once, and with no paltering about compensation, the traitorous institution of Slavery. The line of Freedom is thus extended to the pickets of Lee's army, south of the Rapidan, for Delaware is not now worth counting as a Slave State. Baltimore City, where the Massachusetts soldiers were fired upon in 1861 by the minions of the slave-drivers, now gives 9,000 majority for immediate and unconditional Emancipation. Thus the good work goes on.

The Rhode Island election, held yesterday, resulted in the reelection of Gov. Smith, Union, over George H. Browne, Dem., and Amos C. Barstow, Ind. The Legislature will be strongly Union.

The Central Union Club of Brooklyn open their headquarters for the campaign of 1864 to-night, at the corner of Fulton and Pineapple streets. Gen. H. B. Durfee, S. B. Chittenden, esq., the Hon. James Humphrey, the Hon. Edward A. Lambert, and others, will address the meeting.

The Great Fair has a most auspicious commencement. Yesterday the crowd was immense, and last night the jam was something wonderful to endure. The cash receipts yesterday from tickets and sales of goods were \$77,698. The entire receipts so far from all sources amount to four hundred thousand dollars. New-York may well be proud of her work.

The National Banking bill, after having been so variously amended as to become unsatisfactory to the Ways and Means Committee, was yesterday, on motion of the Chairman of that Committee, laid on the table of the House—by Yeas, 89; Nays, 44. Mr. Stevens's previous tender of a substitute for the amended bill, restoring the uniform seven per cent rate of interest, and exempting the banks from State taxation, was rejected, by 59 Yeas to 78 Nays. So the bill lies dead.

The Courier des Etats Unis of yesterday, publishes an important decree recently issued by the "Regency of the Mexican Empire," of which we give a translation in another column. Having been informed that certain foreigners were claiming Mexican lands on the ground of contracts concluded with Juarez, the Regency has ordered the republication of a decree issued on July 23, declaring null and void all the contracts concluded with Juarez after his departure from the capital.

If the Regency has not been misinformed, and if the foreigners who purchased lands from the Government of Juarez, after his departure from the city of Mexico, were, as has been repeatedly intimated, citizens of the United States, there may arise between the de facto Government of the new Emperor of Mexico and the United States mere serious complications than the policy of non-recognition, which has

just received the unanimous approbation of the House of Representatives, would necessarily involve. These purchasers of Mexican lands, if citizens of the United States, will probably apply to our Government for protection, and the question would at once arise, what right can the Regency claim for issuing decrees which would seriously affect the rights of citizens of other States.

MR. PENDLETON'S PROJECT.

We do not oppose, yet we do not much admire, the proposition of Mr. Pendleton of Ohio which aims to provide seats on the floor of the House for the heads of the Executive Departments. If the Secretary of State is to have a seat in either House, and but one, it should be the Senate; and we think each Secretary should sit in that branch—if in either—when nominations in his Department are under consideration. But, waiving details, let us look for a moment at the main question.

The theory of our Government, unlike those of Great Britain and France, contemplates a nearly complete separation of the Executive from the Legislative department. The heads of the former are the highest assistants of the President, who is responsible for their acts to the country. We do not decide which of these systems is preferable; but we greatly doubt the expediency of composing them.

Suppose the Secretary of the Treasury, for instance, to have so little to do that he would like to piece out his employment by hunting up an extra duty or two, is it clear that he would like to sit, for two or three hours per day, on the floor of the House, and be badgered with all sorts of often impertinent and venomous inquiries? What would be his inducements? What his hope of reward?

In Great Britain and France, the Ministers lead the two Houses. They not merely debate, but vote. They hold office by the tenure of being able to obtain seats and command majorities in Parliament. This is one system; ours is very different; Mr. Pendleton's seems to us to miss the better points of either. When the Cabinet take seats in the House, defend themselves against a determined assault, and are voted down, they will either resign or go on. In England, they resign; and this makes the matter serious and coherent. But if they are to come in and speak, next sit dumb while their supporters are voted down, and then retire to go on with their Executive duties just as though nothing of this had happened, we think they might better have staid in their offices and let Congress likewise mind its own business. We may think differently on mature reflection; but such is our first impression.

OUR MUNICIPAL PIPER.

The Finance Committee of the Common Council, in their report published in THE TRIBUNE some weeks ago, while tacitly acknowledging the fact of the immense increase in taxation, favor the public with several columns of special pleading, in which they endeavor to shift the responsibility to the shoulders of the Board of Supervisors. The chief purpose of the document, and the greater part of its space, are to show that this Board, with the "Special Commissions," and the interference of the Legislature with city affairs, have caused the evil. Yet it is noticeable that they do not deny that the City Government has plundered, but only claim that the County Administration has plundered more, and for this purpose they submit, in contrasted tables, a statement of the respective city and county expenses since 1857. Thus the total expenditures for both accounts, in 1858, were \$8,621,091 30, and for 1863, \$12,629,574 09, being an increase in the six years of a fraction over 46 per cent. The city account, in 1858, was \$6,165,227 31, and in 1863, \$7,235,001 83; and in 1863, \$5,385,502 26. Now, to make the most favorable statement for the justice of this laborious report (which we do not now criticize), is simply to say that in those six years the city account increased sixteen per cent, while the county account outran it and reached an increment of a hundred and thirteen per cent. But the Common Council Committee do not quite clear the skirts of that body, as the following statement shows: Triumphantly separating, all along, the appropriations which are and are not under the control of the Common Council, they show us that the county expenditures of 1858 were \$2,515,803 90, and the estimates for 1864, \$5,544,967 65, an increase of a hundred and thirty-two per cent, which is sufficiently startling; but the appropriations of the Common Council in 1858 were \$599,363 82, and the estimates for 1864 are \$1,250,968 02. Thus an increase of a hundred per cent in six years is the clearest record they can present.

But just now let this stand as an undecided question which of the two parties is the guilty. We all know—and the public are coming in some degree not only to know it, but to realize it—that for the coming year \$15,000,000 are demanded of New-York, or simply a subsidy of \$15 for every inhabitant. The Finance Committee want \$8,075,783 23 for 1864. For the conveniently vague purpose of "contingencies" they ask \$159,000; for salaries, they ask \$744,193; for Common Council printing, \$75,000. But a word concerning these items: "Contingencies" cover every form of robbery, though not every case of it; they range from a bill at Delmonico's to the kids which the Common Council wear when they appear at a carousal from which the Mayor, to his honor, withholds himself. "Salaries" are paid to scores of nominal clerks whose services are only political; and the \$75,000 for the Common Council printing alone buys not a sheet of paper for other uses, nor is it sufficient to prepare for publication the Corporation Manual. The slime which clogs our feet on rainy days, and whirled down our throats in the sunshine, shows how the streets are cleaned; yet the Finance Committee designate \$350,000 for that object. We have already stated the cost of this work in European cities, and Mr. Carr says that while \$133,000 are paid for salaries and contingencies of the sanitary department, \$60,000 would be a liberal estimate. From one, Judge of all.

It may be useful to make a comparison between the cost of the police in New-York and in London. In 1857, the police force of London numbered 6,083 in all. The office salaries and expenses were \$51,122; for pay, clothing and equipments, \$1,720,354; other expenses, \$333,151; total cost of the force, \$2,104,637. In 1859, Paris maintained a force of 4,298 at a cost of \$1,689,280. In 1860, the London police force numbered 6,638, and its total cost was \$2,378,503. In New-York the same year, the police force numbered 1,786, who were paid \$1,265,577, and the total expenses were \$1,332,977. But there is to be said for the police—we really get what we pay for. The most striking statement, however, yet remains. The total expenses of the City and County Government for 1858 were \$8,621,091 30, and for 1863, \$12,629,574 09. The police which paid these taxes amounted in the former year to \$531,194,290, and in the latter to \$594,196,863. Thus while the city property increased twelve and a half per cent (nearly) in the six years, the taxation climbed the scale at the rate of forty-six per cent. The aggregate expenses of the six years were \$64,445,967 34, and the increase of property during the same time was \$63,002,573. These are facts which the dullest man can comprehend. What follows from them? Simply that the wealth and the taxation growing side by side (as naturally they do grow), the latter grows nearly four times as fast as the former. From this follows, ultimately, the destruction of New-York, unless checked. When a man's increase of expenses outstrips the increase of his property, he knows the result; and now the taxation of New-York not only swallows every dollar of its growth in wealth, but has begun to encroach upon what is already accumulated. There is no question whether there shall be a change, but only as to its time and manner. Clearly the time cannot be long deferred, and the manner will be a reform if the public enforce it. The natural growth of this metropolis is great, but it has no chance against the geometric gallop at which the municipal expenses have been driven of late years. It is little to know, as the public have long known, that the whole system of municipal government in New-York is a system of organized robbery, but the city cannot bear to have another ounce added to the burden. The abuse of the municipal system must be reformed, and the longer it is delayed the more difficult it becomes.

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NEVADA.

Five years ago next July, we traversed the region now known as Nevada Territory, then the outlying western portion of Utah. At least ninety-nine hundredths of it had never had the dwelling of civilized human beings within eight miles.

We traveled some four or five hundred miles within the present limits of Nevada, and never saw a field of grain nor a decent house therein till we struck Carson River near its 'sink' the day before we crossed the Sierra into California. There was one house—a very new one—at Virginia City, now the capital of the Territory, with hundreds of edifices and thousands of inhabitants; there was a green and beautiful valley at the head of the Carson, and a smart young village thereof, known as Genoa, where we found a newspaper and telegraph office—the first since Salt Lake City; and there may have been five thousand inhabitants—most of them Chinese and Indians—within the limits which now inclose Nevada; but many of these were 'prospectors' in the mountains and gulches, so that there can hardly have been two hundred decent dwellings in the Territory—not more. Now, Nevada has a Legislature, several cities, any number of stores and hotels, and came very near being made a State last Fall—only her people would not, evincing a practical wisdom which they will hardly display again. Nevada is bound to be a State.

Prof. Silliman, we understand, has gone out to make a geological survey of and report upon its mineral resources, which are undoubtedly great. Even now, when hardly five years have elapsed since their discovery, the Silver Mines of Nevada yield a greater annual product than those of any other country, Mexico excepted. And this yield is clearly not a hundredth part of what it may and will be. But, leaving these to Prof. Silliman, we proceed to speak of the region which embosoms them.

Nevada is remarkably and almost necessarily healthy. It forms the western side of the Great Basin inclosed by the Rocky Mountains on the east and the Sierra Nevada on the west, the average elevation of its valleys being at least 5,000 feet above tide-water, while very little of it is so low as 4,000 feet. Some of the peaks of the Humboldt mountains are 11,000 feet high. The Winters are of moderate length, with a temperature like that of our city—modified, doubtless, by the mild breezes from the Pacific. No rain falls for six to eight months of each year, and there are no swamps. The rivers that run eastward from the Sierra lose themselves in 'sinks' on the great, usually barren plain that stretches far eastward, thinly covered with the hopeless shrub known as 'sage-brush.' Houses being scarce here, it is lucky that sleeping in the open air is usually pleasant and invigorating.

The Humboldt river, which rises in the mountains of Western Utah, pursues a circuitous but generally south-western course for some 350 miles, losing itself in a 'sink,' soon after passing through Humboldt Lake, perhaps one hundred miles from the foot of the Sierra Nevada and forty north of the 'sink' of the Carson. The Humboldt is largest near its head, receiving few and feeble tributaries and being only a decent mill-stream in Summer, which dwindles as it proceeds. It runs through a desolate valley from ten to thirty miles wide, bounded by ranges of mountains as desolate as itself. These mountains are now disclosing immense deposits of the precious metals to the explorer's energetic researches. Vast plateaus of Salt, with veins of Sulphur and beds of Niter, are also reported, with Mineral Springs of varied and marvelous efficacy. In short, the Humboldt Mountains are now declared miracles of wealth and attractiveness—which belies their looks most emphatically. Mount Sinai must be the 'abomination of desolation' if it appears more naked and sterile than they do.

A great deal of money has already been made

by mining in Nevada, as a thousand times more doubtless will be in due time. With the Pacific Railroad (or even a part of it) to bring them relatively cheap food and forage, the mines of this sterile region would doubtless be worked to far greater extent and profit than they now can be; and that Railroad we must have within ten years at farthest. We predict that the child is born who will see this country produce Gold and Silver to the amount of Two Hundred Millions of Dollars per annum; and then we will have Greenbacks and Gold at par, unless the former, being more portable, should at some points command a small premium. Uncle Sam has his difficulties, but he is not going to fail.

BEVERLY JOHNSON.

It may be unwell to talk of ages, yet Mr. Johnson is no longer young. We believe he has been longer familiar with public affairs than any but two or three others now in Congress. He never lived in any but a Slave State. He was never a 'fanatic' nor a (technical) 'Abolitionist.' He has belonged to various parties, but never to the Republican of our day. He last supported Douglas for President, and never publicly opposed nor reproached any of the bold strokes for mastery of the Slave Power. He is a U. S. Senator with several years to serve, and can hardly be suspected of ambitious longings. He is at home in Maryland, naturally one of the most conservative of States. He has never been suspected of humanitarian sentiment or philanthropic zeal beyond knowledge. He is an able lawyer and veteran politician—cool, clear-headed, deliberate, and bent on conserving everything that will bear it.

This man rises in the Senate and calmly announces that Slavery is dead for all purposes but those of mischief and peril, and proposes that the patrefying remains be decently, decisively buried by constitutional amendment, so as to be beyond the hope or fear of resurrection. His reasons are cogent, of course, but the naked fact is most significant. Can it be worth while, in the face of it, to run a Pro-Slavery ticket in the approaching Presidential contest? Is there not some limit to the riding of a dead horse?

FROM WASHINGTON.

Special Dispatch to THE N. Y. Tribune. WASHINGTON, Wednesday, April 6, 1864.

GEN. GRANT'S STAFF.

The following officers compose the staff of Gen. Grant as now completed: Brig. Gen. John A. Rawling, Chief of Staff. Lieut. Col. C. B. Comstock, Senior A. D. C. Lieut. Col. O. E. Babcock, A. D. C. Lieut. Col. W. L. Duff, Assistant Inspector-General. Lieut. Col. W. R. Rowley, Military Secretary. Lieut. Col. Adam Badeau, Military Secretary. Capt. E. S. Parker, Assistant Adjutant-General. Capt. George R. Lutz, Assistant Adjutant-General. Lieut. W. H. Dunn, Jr., Acting A. D. C. Capt. H. W. Jones, Staff Quartermaster.

REDUCED IN RANK.

By an order just issued from the War Department, Gen. Stone, Porter, and Naglee have been reduced to their original positions in their regiments.

DISMISSED THE SERVICE.

Gen. Montgomery, in the same order, has been dismissed from the service.

GEN. BLAIR'S WHISKY ORDER.

Michael Powers, to whom the celebrated whisky order was issued, testified to-day, before the Blair Investigating Committee, that the order had been altered after receiving it from Gen. Blair. When asked if he altered it, he refused to tell, but stated that the Committee must not expect him to criminate himself.

THE CHAPLAIN BILL.

The Committee on Conference on the disagreeing amendments to the Chaplain bill arranged the disagreements. The rank of chaplain is heretofore to be adopted as special rank, which is to be between that of a captain and a major. Their pay is to remain as heretofore.

GENS. MEADE AND MCLELLAN.

It is stated on good authority that Gen. Meade was in correspondence with McClellan explaining his actions and movements during the Fall of 1863, and also that he wrote to McClellan in relation to the order prohibiting the McClellan testimonial in the army.

On these points, there is strong opposition made not only to his being nominated for Major-General in the Regular Army, but also to his being retained in command of the Army of the Potomac. It is probable that the opposition of the former may prevent his nomination, but it is generally conceded that he will remain in command of the Army of the Potomac.

EMIGRATION.

Gentlemen from Boston and New-York interested in the establishment of emigrant agencies, through which manufacturers of all classes may order from Europe such artisans as they may require, with a guarantee of character and ability, had a prolonged interview with Secretary Seward, and found that the scheme may be made to harmonize with the views of the Department and the plan recently submitted to the Emigrant Committee of the House. The letter of the Secretary embraces an interesting review of the whole subject, and contains many valuable suggestions.

NAVAL MOVEMENT.

Iron-clad war steamer Canoufens has just been ordered by the Navy Department to repair to New-York, and the Join the Teumseh, Onondaga, and their conveyors, after which all will proceed to their destination on the Southern coast. It is stated, also, that the Sanguis and Manhattan will be ready to follow these vessels in a few days. Some additions to be made to the Onondaga will, the Department is informed, delay her departure some days.

To the Associated Press.

WASHINGTON, Wednesday, April 6, 1864.

THE DEFEAT OF THE NATIONAL BANK BILL.

The total defeat of the National Bank or Currency bill by so large a vote as two-thirds, astonished both its friends and foes, especially as so much time had been consumed in efforts to perfect it. All of the amendments made in Committee of the Whole, about 60 in number, had been concurred in. The Committee on Ways and Means are willing to adopt all but two; and hence Representative Stevens offered a substitute differing from the amended bill only in the following particulars, viz: Restoring the uniform seven per centum interest, and leaving it under national, not State legislation; and omitting the section which left the capital stock of the institution to be taxed the same as the property of individuals, for State and municipal purposes. The House emphatically disagreed to this substitute. This was the turning point in the controversy, the fact that determined whether the bill containing the clauses obnoxious to the prominent friends of the measure should pass the House. So it was laid upon the table upon motion of Mr. Stevens, some of his own political friends voting with those on the opposite side, who were from the beginning opposed to this measure of finance.

GEORGE THOMPSON'S LECTURE.

George Thompson of England delivered a lecture in the Hall of the House of Representatives to-night to a dense auditory, including President Lincoln, Secretaries Chase and Usher, many members of both branches of Congress, and not a few ladies. A band of music was in attendance.

Vice-President Hamlin introduced the lecturer, who at the commencement of his remarks, emphatically

denied and challenged proof that he had ever sold the disunion of the Union must constantly be kept in view; on the contrary he had always been its steadfast friend.

His expression, "Thank God, the hour of compromise is passed!" was enthusiastically applauded, as was also his allusion to what he characterized as the band of mis-antislavery at Richmond, calling themselves the Confederate Government, who promised themselves ultimate success and the full recognition of their principles throughout the civilized world.

The wish and prayer of every philanthropist, he said, was God speed the North who was with the President and against the serpent, Copperheads and all, whom they would brush from the land. This, and the mention of the name of Old John Brown, were heartily applauded.

He quoted from Lincoln's speeches delivered six years ago, saying he would not exchange those sentiments for all that had been written by Edmund Burke. After the lecture Mr. Thompson received the congratulations of a large number of distinguished gentlemen, among whom was particularly noticed Senator Johnson of Maryland.

HOW THE FIVE-TWENTY LOAN WAS OBTAINED.

Secretary Chase, in a communication to the House to-day, says Jay Cook employed about 2,400 agents, for whom he was responsible, and secured subscriptions to the loan to the amount of \$300,000,000, without which the army and navy and creditors could not have been paid.

The cost of the loan was \$1,400,000, amounting to less than three-tenths of one per cent on 15 days' interest on the whole amount. The Secretary concludes that these services could not have been so successfully performed by the Treasury Department.

Large Fire in Boston—Loss \$800,000.

Boston, Wednesday, April 6, 1864.

Only the walls of Freemason's Hall and the Winthrop House remain standing this morning. All the guests of the hotel escaped.

But very little property was saved. Mr. Silsby, proprietor of the Winthrop House, loses about \$50,000 in furniture and fixtures.

The destruction of Freemason's Hall involves a loss of \$100,000. The building was owned by Freemasons, and was partially insured. The property originally cost \$100,000, and \$50,000 had recently been invested in repairs.

Freemason's Hall was situated